

# **METRO EAST REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY**

## **MINUTES – February 19, 2015**

The regular stated meeting of the Metro East Regional Human Rights Authority (HRA) was called to order at 7:08 p.m., Thursday, February 19, 2015 by Chairperson, Thomas Cannady. This meeting was held at Cannady & Aubuchon, 1931 West Main Street, Belleville, IL.

HRA Members Present: Karen Kelly, Thomas Cannady, Jane Nesbit and Michael Pintar.

HRA Members Absent: Christine Anderson, Andrea Frazier, Margaret Merrell and Beverly Sweatman.

Guests: Kristal Gruenfelder, Parents and Friends of the SLC, and Barbara Nelson, Community Link

Staff Present: Teresa Parks and Cathy Goebel

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

Chairperson, Thomas Cannady, recognized that a quorum was not present. The guests introduced themselves.

Chairperson, Thomas Cannady, read the confidentiality statement that indicates that personally identifiable information should not be presented in public meetings in order to protect the privacy of those disabled persons on whose behalf the HRA conducts investigations.

The Chairperson asked for any changes in the agenda. For the convenience of the guests present, the HRA discussed entering into closed session to individually meet with the provider representatives present at the meeting and to discuss confidential case information. Karen Kelly made a motion to enter into closed session at 7:18 pursuant to Section 21 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act (20 ILCS 3955/21) and Section 120/2 (c) (4) of the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2) to discuss confidential case investigation information regarding cases #15-070-9004 and 15-070-9006; Michael Pintar seconded the motion and it was approved. Barbara Nelson entered the closed session discussion of Case #15-070-9004 and then left the meeting; Krystal Gruenfelder entered the closed session to discuss Case #15-070-9006 and then left the meeting. The HRA returned to open session at 7:36 p.m. having taken no action in closed session.

### **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the stated meeting of December 11, 2014 could not be approved due to the lack of a quorum.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Teresa Parks reported that the new member applicant could not attend due to the weather and will join the HRA at the next meeting. Parks shared information about Open Meetings Act training via the Attorney General's website as well as the link for the HRA Member protected section of the

Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission website. Parks also shared that the agency continues to pursue the filling of the Metro East HRA Coordinator position. Appreciation for Cathy Goebel's assistance was expressed with hopes of continue her contract should the position not be filled.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Ratifications**

Due to the lack of a quorum, the HRA could not ratify emergency case acceptances of Cases #15-070-9014, Alton Mental Health Center, and #15-070-9015, Division of Rehabilitation Services.

### **New Complaints**

The following new case was reviewed:

15-070-9016 – Nursing Home – The complaints allege that directions from a resident's agent in a power of attorney for health care were disregarded, that the resident's right to retain her own physician was violated and the facility grievance process was inadequate. Using emergency case opening procedures, Tom Cannady, Karen Kelly and Michael Pintar approved the emergency case acceptance of the complaint.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The Authority returned to closed session at 7:53 p.m. pursuant to Section 721 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act and Section 120/2 (c) (4) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss case progress, reports of findings and confidential case information. Tom Cannady made the motion to enter closed session, seconded by Mike Pintar and carried by the Members present. The HRA returned to open session at 8:50 p.m. having taken no action in closed session. Closed session discussion included confidential discussion of case site visits, case progress, draft report reviews and consideration of case closures. A summary of case progress follows.

### **Case Progress Reports:**

15-070-9002 – Alton Mental Health Center – restrictions. A site visit has been completed and a report is being developed.

15-070-9003 – Alton Mental Health Center – restrictions – A site visit has been completed and a report is being developed.

15-070-9005 – Alton Mental Health Center – restraints and medication – A site visit has been completed and a report is being developed.

15-070-9007 – Alton Mental Health Center – unit restroom access, private phone access – A site visit is needed.

15-070-9008 – Adapt of Illinois – consumer accounts – A site visit is needed.

15-070-9009 – Alton Mental Health Center – property – A site visit is needed.

15-070-9010 – Madison County Jail – medication/medical care - A site visit is needed. HRA staff

person, Gene Seaman, is assisting with the case.

15-070-9012 – Alton Mental Health Center – discharge planning/fitness determination – A site visit is needed.

15-070-9013 – Alton Mental Health Center – diets – A site visit is needed.

15-070-9014 – Alton Mental Health Center – unit water turned off – A site visit is needed.

15-070-9015 – Department of Rehabilitation Services – worker issues/complaint process – A site visit is needed. HRA staff person, Cathy Wolf, is assisting with the case.

### Reports of Findings

Tom Cannady made a motion to approve the following reports with revisions where appropriate:

14-070-9020/14-070-9024 – Alton Mental Health Center – property and visitation.

14-070-9026 – Alton Mental Health Center – reduced privileges.

14-070-9035 – Alton Mental Health Center – property access.

14-070-9036 – Alton Mental Health Center – external consult and treatment planning.

14-070-9037 – Alton Mental Health Center – searches and physician changes.

14-070-9038 – Alton Mental Health Center – property access.

15-070-9004 – Community Link – transportation aide.

15-070-9006 – Specialized Living Center – visitation and guardianship assistance.

Mike Pintar seconded the motion and the motion was approved by the members present. A follow-up 5<sup>th</sup> vote will be secured after the meeting as per HRA regulations (59 Ill. Admin. Code 310.70 (c) (3)) and the vote will be ratified at the HRA's next meeting with a quorum present.

### Case Closures

14-070-9018 - FAYCO – arrest. Tom Cannady made a motion to close the case making the findings and the provider's response, as requested by the provider, part of the public record. Mike Pintar seconded the motion and the motion was approved by the members present. A follow-up 5<sup>th</sup> vote will be secured after the meeting as per HRA regulations (59 Ill. Admin. Code 310.70 (e)) and the vote will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum present.

14-070-9019 - Alton Mental Health Center - forced treatment. Tom Cannady made a motion to close the case making the findings part of the public record. A response was not required or provided. Mike Pintar seconded the motion and the motion was approved by the members present. A follow-

up 5<sup>th</sup> vote will be secured after the meeting as per HRA regulations (59 Ill. Admin. Code 310.70 (e)) and the vote will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum present.

14-070-9027 – Meridian Healthcare – Tom Cannady made a motion to close the case making the findings part of the public record. A response was not required or provided. Mike Pintar seconded the motion and the motion was approved by the members present. A follow-up 5<sup>th</sup> vote will be secured after the meeting as per HRA regulations (59 Ill. Admin. Code 310.70 (e)) and the vote will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum present.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS and ADJOURNMENT:**

Tom Cannady announced his resignation from the HRA effective 02-20-15 due to his appointment to the bench of the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit. The HRA congratulated Tom on his new position and thanked him for his many years of exceptional service to the HRA. The Vice-Chair, Margaret Merrell, will handle Chair duties until the HRA votes on a replacement Chair. In addition, the HRA agreed to change its meeting site to the offices of the DDSME at 2900 Frank Scot Parkway West in Belleville and change its meeting time to 6:30 p.m.

Members discussed the next meeting date and decided to cancel the March meeting as it is only 3 weeks away. The next meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2015. Mike Pintar made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm. Tom Cannady seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Jane Nesbit  
Secretary